

'Game over': Westerners rush to leave Kabul, rescue Afghans

Associated Press

The chop of U.S. military helicopters whisking American diplomats to Kabul's airport on Sunday punctuated a frantic rush by thousands of other foreigners and Afghans to flee to safety as well, as a stunningly swift Taliban takeover reached Afghanistan's capital. U.S. reports of gunfire at the airport threatened to shut down one of the last avenues of escape in an ever-more chaotic and compressed evacuation. NATO allies that had pulled out their forces ahead of the Biden administration's intended Aug. 31 withdrawal deadline were rushing troops back in this weekend to airlift their citizens, while the Pentagon was sending in fresh rein-

forcements.

Some complained the U.S. was failing to move fast enough to bring to safety the Afghans who fear retribution from the Taliban for past work with the Americans and other NATO forces. "This is murder by incompetence," said U.S. Air Force veteran Sam Lerman, struggling Sunday from his home in Woodbridge, Virginia, to find a way out for an Afghan contractor who had guarded Americans and other NATO forces at Afghanistan's Bagram air base for a decade. Massouma Tajik, a 22-year-old data analyst, was among hundreds of Afghans waiting anxiously in the Kabul airport to board an evacuation flight.

Continued on next page



In this photo provided by the Ministry of Defence on Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021, members of the 16 Air Assault Brigade arrive in Kabul as part of a 600-strong UK-force sent to assist with Operation PITTING to rescue British nationals in Afghanistan amidst the worsening security situation there.

Associated Press

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Continued from Front

"I see people crying, they are not sure whether their flight will happen or not. Neither am I," she said by phone, with panic in her voice.

Educated Afghan women have some of the most to lose under the fundamentalist Taliban, whose past government, overthrown by the U.S.-led invasion in 2001, sought to largely confine women to the home.

Taliban forces moved early Sunday into a capital beset by fear and declared they were awaiting a peaceful surrender, capping a stunning sweep of Afghanistan in just the past week.

That arrival of the first waves of Taliban insurgents into Kabul prompted the U.S. to evacuate the embassy in full, apparently leaving only a core of U.S. diplomats at the airport for the time being. Even as CH-47 helicopters shuttled American diplomats to the airport, and facing criticism at home over the administration's handling of the withdrawal, Secretary of State Antony Blinken rejected comparisons to the 1975 fall of Saigon.

"This is being done in a very deliberate way, it's being done in an orderly way," Blinken insisted on ABC's "This Week."

John Kirby, the chief Pen-



Afghans wait in long lines for hours to get visas in front of the Iranian embassy, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021.

Associated Press

tagon spokesman, said the evacuation was following plans developed and rehearsed months ago.

"One of the reasons we have been able to respond as quickly as we have these past few days is because we were ready for this contingency," Kirby said.

To many, however, the evacuations, and last-ditch rescue attempts by Americans and other foreigners trying to save Afghan allies, appeared far from orderly. An Italian journalist, Francesca Mannocchi, posted a video of an Italian helicopter carrying her to the airport, an armed soldier standing guard at a window. Mannocchi described watching columns of smoke rising from Kabul as she flew. Some were from fires that workers at the U.S.

Embassy and others were using to keep sensitive material from falling in Taliban hands.

She said Afghans stoned an Italian convoy. She captioned her brief video: "Kabul airport. Evacuation. Game Over."

Hundreds or more Afghans crowded in a part of the airport away from many of the evacuating Westerners. Some of them, including a man with a broken leg sitting on the ground, lined up for what was expected to be a last flight out by the country's Ariana Airlines.

U.S. officials reported gunfire near the airport Sunday evening and urged civilians to stop coming. U.S. military officials later announced closing the airport to commercial flights, shutting one of the last avenues of es-

cape for ordinary Afghans. U.S. C-17 transport planes were due to bring thousands of fresh American troops to the airport, then fly out again with evacuating U.S. Embassy staffers. The Pentagon was now sending an additional 1,000 troops, bringing the total number to about 6,000, a U.S. defense official said Sunday, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss a deployment decision not yet announced by the Pentagon.

The Pentagon intends to have enough aircraft to fly out as many as 5,000 civilians a day, both Americans and the Afghan translators and others who worked with the U.S. during the war. But tens of thousands of Afghans who have worked with U.S. and other NATO forces are seeking to flee with family members. And it was by no means clear how long Kabul's deteriorating security would allow any evacuations to continue.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, whose government had been one of many expressing surprise at the speed of the U.S. withdrawal, told reporters in Berlin on Sunday that it was "difficult to endure" watching how quickly the Taliban took control of Afghanistan and how little government

troops were able to do to stop them.

At a North Carolina-based adoption agency, Mary Beth Lee King sought a way to extricate two Afghan boys, ages 11 and 2, due for adoption by families in America.

"I am terrified and heartbroken. I can only imagine what they themselves are feeling," King said of the children's adoptive parents and Afghan families.


"Even if the U.S. won't admit them to the U.S., get them somewhere, so that ... we know that they are alive and safe," she said of the two Afghan children.

In Virginia, Lerman, the Air Force veteran, stayed up overnight Saturday to Sunday to finish an application for a special U.S. visa program meant to rescue Afghans who had worked with Americans.

When Lerman hit "send," he got a message saying the State Department email box for the rescue program was full, he said, sharing screenshots.

The Afghan security contractor he was working to get out was sitting frightened inside his home with the blinds drawn and Taliban fighters outside, he said. The State Department said late Sunday afternoon it believed it had fixed the problem. □






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U.S. mulls COVID vaccine boosters for elderly as early as fall

By HOPE YEN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—Warning of tough days ahead with surging COVID-19 infections, the director of the National Institutes of Health said Sunday the U.S. could decide in the next couple weeks whether to offer coronavirus booster shots to Americans this fall.

Among the first to receive them could be health care workers, nursing home residents and other older Americans.

Dr. Francis Collins also pleaded anew for unvaccinated people to get their shots, calling them "sitting ducks" for a delta variant that is ravaging the country and showing little sign of letting up.

"This is going very steeply upward with no signs of having peaked out," he said.

Federal health officials have been actively looking at whether extra shots for the vaccinated may be needed as early as this fall, reviewing case numbers in the U.S. "almost daily" as well as the situation in other countries such as Israel, where preliminary studies suggest the vaccine's protection against serious illness dropped among those vaccinated in January.

Israel has been offering a coronavirus booster to people over 60 who were



In this June 10, 2021, file photo Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra testifies before the Senate Finance Committee on President Joe Biden's budget request, at the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

already vaccinated more than five months ago.

No U.S. decision has been made because cases here so far still indicate that people remain highly protected from COVID-19, including the delta variant, after receiving the two-dose Pfizer or Moderna regimen or the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

But U.S. health officials made clear Sunday they are preparing for the possibility that the time for boosters may come sooner than later.

"There is a concern that the

vaccine may start to wane in its effectiveness," Collins said. "And delta is a nasty one for us to try to deal with. The combination of those two means we may need boosters, maybe beginning first with health care providers, as well as people in nursing homes, and then gradually moving forward" with others, such as older Americans who were among the first to get vaccinations after they became available late last year.

He said because the delta variant only started hitting

the U.S. hard in July, the "next couple of weeks" of case data will help the U.S. make a decision.

Moderna President Stephen Hoge said seeing some "breakthrough" infections emerge among the vaccinated within six months has been surprising, even if most symptoms so far have not been life-threatening. "I think that suggests we are going to need booster vaccines to get through the winter," he said.

Last week, the Food and Drug Administration said p

people with weakened immune systems can get an extra dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines to better protect them as the delta variant continues to surge.

"If it turns out as the data come in, we see we do need to give an additional dose to people in nursing homes, actually, or people who are elderly, we will be absolutely prepared to do that very quickly," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, who is President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser.

While the U.S. currently is seeing an average of about 129,000 new infections a day — a 700% increase from the beginning of July — that number could jump in the next couple weeks to 200,000, a level not seen since among the pandemic's worst days in January and February, Collins said.

Both he and Fauci stressed that the best way to stem the virus is for the unvaccinated to get their shots.

Currently, about 60% of the U.S. population has gotten at least one dose and nearly 51% are fully vaccinated, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Areas with low vaccination rates have been particularly hit hard with infections, such as Louisiana, Texas, Florida and Mississippi. □

Hochul narrows search for New York's lieutenant governor

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and MARINA VILLENEUVE

New York state Sens. Jamaal Bailey and Brian Benjamin are emerging as top contenders in the search for New York's next lieutenant governor, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press.

Bailey and Benjamin, both from New York City, are among several candidates being vetted by Kathy Hochul and her team and have, in recent days, emerged as the leading contenders, the person said.

The person could not publicly discuss the internal

deliberations and spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity.

Earlier this week, Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced he would resign after increasing calls for his impeachment after an investigation found he sexually harassed 11 women.

He is set to leave office on Aug. 24 when Hochul, who has been lieutenant governor since 2015, will take over.

In an interview on CBS's "Face The Nation" on Sunday, Hochul, who hails from the Buffalo area, said she had narrowed her

search to focus on candidates from New York City. "Even though I've spent thousands of hours in New York City and I'm well familiar with the challenges, I want someone who lives there," she said. "I want someone who understands the challenges firsthand."

Hochul, who will be New York's first female governor, is also considering naming Kathryn Garcia as the director of state operations, a coveted position in the state administration, the person said.

The position of lieutenant governor has largely been



New York Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul gives a news conference at the State Capitol, Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021 in Albany, N.Y.

Associated Press

a ceremonial role.

During Hochul's time in office, she helped lead eco-

nomics reopening efforts in western New York amid the COVID-19 pandemic. □

California fire threatens homes as blazes burn across West

By **EUGENE GARCIA and CHRISTOPHER WEBER**
Associated Press

QUINCY, Calif. (AP) — Thousands of Northern California homes were threatened Sunday by the nation's largest wildfire and officials warned the danger of new blazes erupting across the West was high because of unstable weather.

Thunderstorms that moved in starting Friday didn't produce much rain but whipped up winds and generated lightning strikes across the northern Sierra where crews were battling the month-old Dixie Fire. Extreme heat returned Sunday with temperatures expected to top 100 degrees (38 Celsius).

"We're definitely still dealing with the possibility of lightning. Winds are all over the place. Things are going to be pretty unstable for the next couple days," said fire spokesman Edwin Zuniga. Gusts of up to 50 mph (80 kph) on Saturday pushed flames closer to Janesville, a town of about 1,500 people just east of Greenville, the small gold rush-era community decimated by the fire 10 days ago.

James Reichle evacuated from Greenville and has been sleeping with his dog in a trailer outside a church. His home survived the flames but he's been un-



A surviving ceramic statue is seen outside a house that burned along North Arm Road in Plumas County near Taylorsville, Calif., Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021.

Associated Press

able to return because the roads are closed. He said he feels for his neighbors at the evacuation center who lost everything.

"These are all people who either don't have a home or don't have access to a home. I still have a house standing, no damage. But I can't get into it," he said Saturday.

The Dixie Fire was the largest among more than 100 big blazes burning in more than a dozen states in the

West, a region seared by drought and hot, bone-dry weather that turned forests, brushlands, meadows and pastures into tinder.

The U.S. Forest Service said Friday it is operating in crisis mode, fully deploying firefighters and maxing out its support system.

The roughly 21,000 federal firefighters working on the ground is more than double the number of firefighters sent to contain forest fires at this time a year ago, said

Anthony Scardina, a deputy forester for the agency's Pacific Southwest region.

More than 6,000 firefighters alone were battling the Dixie Fire, which has ravaged nearly 867 square miles (2,246 square kilometers) — an area the size of Tokyo. It was 31% contained on Sunday.

More than 1,000 homes and businesses have been destroyed and nearly 15,000 structures were still under threat.

The cause has not been determined. Pacific Gas and Electric has said the fire may have been sparked when a tree fell on its power line.

A few hundred miles to the south, evacuations were ordered Sunday after a blaze that broke out the night before churned through California forestland near the remote community of Omo Ranch. There was no containment of the Caldor Fire burning in El Dorado County, about 60 miles (73 kilometers) east of Sacramento.

Meanwhile, a small wildfire that blew up Saturday east of Salt Lake City, temporarily shutting down Interstate 80 and leading to evacuation orders for some 8,000 residences, was caused by a vehicle with a malfunctioning catalytic converter, Utah Fire Info said.

The Parleys Canyon Fire, estimated at just under a square mile (2.4 square kilometers), calmed significantly overnight and homes were no longer threatened, officials said Sunday.

In southeastern Montana, firefighters gained ground on a pair of blazes that chewed through vast rangelands and at one point threatened the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. □

Man stabbed, reporter attacked at protest at LA City Hall



Los Angeles Police officer Gutierrez, left, puts pressure on the open wound of a demonstrator, who was stabbed during clashes between anti-vaccination demonstrators and counter-protesters during an anti-vaccination protest in front of the City Hall in Los Angeles on Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021.

Associated Press

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A

man was stabbed and a reporter was attacked Sat-

urday at a protest against vaccine mandates on the south lawn of Los Angeles' City Hall after a fight broke out between the protesters and counterprotesters, the Los Angeles Police Department and local media said. About 2 p.m., a group of several hundred people holding American flags, Trump memorabilia and signs calling for "medical freedom" arrived at City Hall around 2 p.m. for the rally, the Los Angeles Times reported. A small group of counterprotesters gathered nearby.

About half an hour later, a fight broke out between the protesters and counterprotesters, the Times re-

ported.

The LAPD said on its Twitter account that it is "aware of 1 male that was stabbed & is being treated by LAFD," referring to the Los Angeles Fire Department.

The man was taken to a nearby hospital, where he is in serious condition, LAPD Officer Mike Lopez said.

"No arrests have been made but investigation is on going," the department tweeted.

Counterprotesters could be seen spraying mace while members of the anti-vaccine rally screamed death threats, the Times reported. KPCC radio reporter Frank Stoltze was seen walking out of the park near City

Hall being screamed at by anti-mask protesters, the Times reported. One man was seen kicking him.

Stoltze told a police officer he had been assaulted while trying to conduct an interview, the Times reported.

Stoltze later tweeted: "Something happened to me today that's never happened in 30 yrs of reporting. In LA. □@LAist. I was shoved, kicked and my eyeglasses were ripped off of my face by a group of guys at a protest - outside City Hall during an anti-vax Recall □@GavinNewsom Pro Trump rally."

Stoltze added that he is in good condition. □

Trudeau triggers Canadian election, voting day Sept. 20

By ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Prime Minister Justin Trudeau triggered an election Sunday as he seeks to capitalize on Canada being one of the most fully vaccinated countries in the world. Trudeau announced the election would be held on Sept. 20 after visiting the governor general, who holds a mostly ceremonial position representing Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as head of state.

"We've had your back, and now it's time to hear your voice," Trudeau said. "Canadians need to choose how we finish the fight against COVID-19."

Trudeau is seeking to win a majority of seats in Parliament. His Liberal Party fell just short of that two years ago and must rely on the opposition to pass legislation.

The election comes as Canada is experiencing a new wave of COVID-19 cases, driven by the delta variant of the coronavirus. Trudeau called it "the fourth wave amongst unvaccinated people."

Trudeau isn't as popular as he once was, but his government's handling of the



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks to media following a meeting with Gov. Gen. Mary Simon at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, Ontario, on Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021.

Associated Press

pandemic has been widely viewed as a success. After a slow start Canada now has enough vaccine for every citizen. More than 71% of eligible Canadians are fully vaccinated and over 82% have received at least one dose. The government has spent billions to prop up the economy amid lockdowns that have now lifted.

But if the result is another minority government, the

"knives will start to come out," said Robert Bothwell, a professor of Canadian history and international relations at the University of Toronto.

"Trudeau is not widely liked. He's what the Liberals have so they will fall in behind him, but if he loses he's toast," Bothwell said.

"It's not that he's unpopular but there's no affection there.

The Liberals behave as

if he is this beloved figure but he's not. The novelty is gone. But there's still enough there and the performance on COVID was pretty solid so I think people will balance these things going into the election and vote for Trudeau."

Trudeau, the son of the late Liberal Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, became the second youngest prime minister in Canadian history when he was first elected

with a majority of seats in Parliament in 2015. The Liberal's victory ended almost 10 years of Conservative Party government in Canada, but scandals combined with high expectations have damaged Trudeau's standing.

His father served as prime minister from 1968 to 1984 with a short interruption.

Opposition leftist New Democratic Party leader Jagmeet Singh said it is "selfish" for Trudeau to call an election in a pandemic. Ontario, Canada's largest province, reported more than 500 cases for the fourth straight day.

Opposition Conservative leader Erin O'Toole didn't answer when asked if his candidates will or should be vaccinated. He said he is disappointed Trudeau is trying to divide people about their health.

"The Liberals are going to keep pounding the Conservatives on this and it will happen as the fourth wave of the pandemic is picking up steam, said Nelson Wiseman, a political science professor at the University of Toronto. "The fourth wave could hurt the Liberals if lockdowns are reimposed." □

Study: German emissions to grow by largest amount since 1990

BERLIN (AP) — Germany is forecast to slip back below the threshold it had set for cutting greenhouse gases by 2020, amid a post-pandemic recovery and unfavorable conditions for renewable energy, according to a report by an environmental think tank Sunday. Berlin-based Agora Energiewende examined data from the first half of 2021 to forecast that total emissions in Germany this year will be equivalent to somewhere between 760 million to 812 million tons of CO₂.

This would put Germany's emissions about 35-39% below 1990 levels. The German government had pledged to achieve cuts of 40% by 2020 — a target it claimed to have reached

last year, in large part due to the pandemic-related economic downturn.

This year's rebound of about 47 million tons of carbon dioxide in 2021 would be the biggest increase since 1990, Agora Energiewende said. Utility companies said they burned significantly more coal in the first six months of this year than in the same period of 2020, while poor weather conditions hampered the production of wind and solar power.

Germany's main political parties have put combating climate change at the top of their agenda in the run-up to a national election on Sept. 26.

The government recently set tougher targets for the coming decades, includ-

ing for emissions to be 55-65% below 1990 levels by 2030, and 88% lower by 2040. Germany aims to reduce emissions to 'net zero' by 2045.

The new report also shows a significant increase in consumption of fossil fuels across the building, industrial and transport sectors. If confirmed, the government will be required by law to introduce urgent measures to reduce those sectoral emissions.

"Far-reaching decisions need to be taken that we mustn't shy away from," said Olaf Scholz, Germany's finance minister and the center-left candidate running to succeed Chancellor Angela Merkel in next month's election.

Agora Energiewende re-



In this Monday, Jan. 13, 2020 file photo the RWE Niederaussem lignite-fired power station steams in Bergheim, Germany. In this Monday, Jan. 13, 2020 file photo the RWE Niederaussem lignite-fired power station steams in Bergheim, Germany.

Associated Press

ceives its funding from environmental groups, such as the European Climate Foundation, and the German government.

Last week, scientists from around the world issued a major report saying the

Earth is getting so hot that temperatures in about a decade will probably blow past a level of warming that world leaders have sought to prevent. U.N. officials called the report a "code red for humanity." □

Rescuers racing in Haiti as storm threatens to follow quake

By **EVENS SANON** and **COLLIN BINKLEY**

LES CAYES, Haiti (AP) — The death toll from a magnitude 7.2 earthquake in Haiti soared on Sunday as rescuers raced to find survivors amid the rubble ahead of a potential deluge from an approaching tropical storm.

Saturday's earthquake left at least 724 dead and 2,800 injured in the Caribbean island nation, with thousands more displaced from their destroyed or damaged homes. Survivors in some areas were forced to shelter in streets or soccer fields with their few salvaged belongings while overloaded hospitals scrambled to help those who were injured.

Yet the devastation could soon worsen with the coming of Tropical Storm Grace, which was predicted to reach Haiti late Monday or early Tuesday, bringing the potential for torrential rain, flooding and landslides. The U.S. National Hurricane Center forecast 4 to 8 inches (10 to 20 centimeters) of rain in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, with up to 15 inches in some southern parts of the island they share.

The earthquake struck the southwestern part of the hemisphere's poorest nation, almost razing some towns and triggering landslides that hampered rescue efforts in a country already grappling with the coronavirus pandemic, a presidential assassination and a wave of gang violence.

The epicenter was about 125 kilometers (78 miles) west of the capital of Port-au-Prince, the U.S. Geological Survey said, and aftershocks continued to jolt the area Sunday.

In the badly damaged coastal town of Les Cayes, some families salvaged their few belongings and spent the night at an open-air football pitch. On Sunday morning, people lined up to buy what little was available: bananas, avocados and water at a local street market.

Some in the town praised God for surviving the earth-



Firefighters search for survivors inside a collapsed building, after Saturday's 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Les Cayes, Haiti, Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021.

Associated Press

quake, and many went to the city's cathedral, which appeared outwardly undamaged even if the priests' residence was destroyed.

"We only have Jesus now," said Johanne Dorcelly, 58, whose house was destroyed. "If it wasn't for Jesus, I wouldn't be able to be here today."

Prime Minister Ariel Henry declared a one-month state of emergency for the whole country and said he was rushing aid to areas where towns were destroyed and hospitals overwhelmed. A former senator rented a private airplane to move injured people from Les Cayes to Port-au-Prince for medical assistance.

"The most important thing is to recover as many survivors as possible under the rubble," said Henry. "We have learned that the local hospitals, in particular that of Les Cayes, are overwhelmed with wounded, fractured people."

Sunday's count from Haiti's Office of Civil Protection raised the previous death toll from 304 dead. The agency said more than 7,000 homes were destroyed and nearly 5,000 damaged. Hospi-

tals, schools, offices and churches were also affected.

Hospitals were overwhelmed at a moment when Haiti has been struggling with the pandemic and a lack of resources to deal with it. The country of 11 million people received its first batch of U.S.-donated coronavirus vaccines only last month via a United Nations program for low-income countries.

Medical workers from across the region were scrambling to help as hospitals in Les Cayes started running out of space to perform surgeries.

"Basically, they need everything," said Dr. Inobert Pierre, a pediatrician with the nonprofit Health Equity International, which oversees the St. Boniface Hospital, about two hours from Les Cayes.

"Many of the patients have open wounds and they have been exposed to not-so-clean elements," added Pierre, who visited two hospitals in Les Cayes — one with some 200 patients, the other with around 90. "We anticipate a lot of infections."

Pierre's medical team was taking some patients to St.

Boniface Hospital to undergo surgery, but with just two ambulances, they could transport just four patients at a time.

The earthquake also struck just over a month after President Jovenel Moïse was shot to death in his home, sending the country into political chaos. His widow, Martine Moïse, who was seriously wounded in the attack, posted a message on Twitter calling for unity among Haitians: "Let's put our shoulders together to bring solidarity."

As he boarded a plane bound for Les Cayes, Henry said he wanted "structured solidarity" to ensure the response was coordinated to avoid the confusion that followed the devastating 2010 earthquake, when aid was slow to reach residents after.

U.S. President Joe Biden authorized an immediate response and named USAID Administrator Samantha Power to oversee the U.S. effort to help Haiti.

Power announced Sunday that USAID was sending a search and rescue team from Virginia at the request of Haiti's government. The 65-person team will bring specialized tools and medi-

cal supplies to assist with the disaster response, Power said on Twitter.

Working with USAID, the U.S. Coast Guard said a helicopter was transporting medical personnel from the Haitian capital to the quake zone and evacuating the injured back to Port-au-Prince. Lt. Commander Jason Nieman, a spokesman, said another helicopter was being sent from the Bahamas, along with other aircraft and ships.

Already on the scene were several members of Cuba's 253-member health care mission to Haiti, and the socialist nation's state media showed photos of them giving first aid to victims injured by the quake.

The North Carolina-based aid group Samaritan's Purse announced Sunday it would airlift 13 disaster response specialists and 31 tons of emergency supplies to Haiti. Those include shelter materials and water filtration units.

Humanitarian workers said gang activity in the seaside district of Martissant, just west of the Haitian capital, also was complicating relief efforts.

"Nobody can travel through the area," Ndiaga Seck, a UNICEF spokesman in Port-au-Prince, said by phone. "We can only fly over or take another route." Seck said information about deaths and damage was slow coming to Port-au-Prince because of spotty internet service, but UNICEF planned to send medical supplies to two hospitals in the south, in Les Cayes and Jeremie.

Haiti, where many live in tenuous circumstances, is vulnerable to earthquakes and hurricanes. A magnitude 5.9 earthquake in 2018 killed more than a dozen people.

The magnitude 7.0 quake of 2010 hit closer to densely populated Port-au-Prince and caused widespread destruction. Haiti's government put the death toll at more than 300,000, while a report commissioned by the U.S. government placed it between 46,000 and 85,000. □



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Rescuers racing in Haiti as storm threatens to follow quake

Associated Press

LES CAYES, Haiti (AP) — The death toll from a magnitude 7.2 earthquake in Haiti soared on Sunday as rescuers raced to find survivors amid the rubble ahead of a potential deluge from an approaching tropical storm.

Saturday's earthquake left at least 724 dead and 2,800 injured in the Caribbean island nation, with thousands more displaced from their destroyed or damaged homes. Survivors in some areas were forced to shelter in streets or soccer fields with their few salvaged belongings while overloaded hospitals scrambled to help those who were injured. Yet the devastation could soon worsen with the coming of Tropical Storm Grace, which was predicted to reach Haiti late Monday or early Tuesday, bringing the potential for torrential rain, flooding and landslides. The U.S. National Hurricane Center forecast 4 to 8 inches (10 to 20 centimeters) of rain in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, with up to 15 inches in some southern parts of the island they share.

The earthquake struck the southwestern part of the hemisphere's poorest nation, almost razing some towns and triggering landslides that hampered rescue efforts in a country already grappling with the coronavirus pandemic, a presidential assassination and a wave of gang violence.

The epicenter was about 125 kilometers (78 miles) west of the capital of Port-au-Prince, the U.S. Geological Survey said, and aftershocks continued to jolt the area Sunday.

In the badly damaged coastal town of Les Cayes, some families salvaged

their few belongings and spent the night at an open-air football pitch. On Sunday morning, people lined up to buy what little was available: bananas, avocados and water at a local street market.

Some in the town praised God for surviving the earthquake, and many went to the city's cathedral, which appeared outwardly undamaged even if the priests' residence was destroyed.

"We only have Jesus now," said Johanne Dorcely, 58, whose house was destroyed. "If it wasn't for Jesus, I wouldn't be able to be here today."

Prime Minister Ariel Henry declared a one-month state of emergency for the whole country and said he was rushing aid to areas where towns were destroyed and hospitals overwhelmed. A former senator rented a private airplane to move injured people from Les Cayes to Port-au-Prince for medical assistance.

"The most important thing is to recover as many survivors as possible under the rubble," said Henry. "We have learned that the local hospitals, in particular that of Les Cayes, are overwhelmed with wounded, fractured people."

Sunday's count from Haiti's Office of Civil Protection raised the previous death toll from 304 dead. The agency said more than 7,000 homes were destroyed and nearly 5,000 damaged. Hospitals, schools, offices and churches were also affected.

Hospitals were overwhelmed at a moment when Haiti has been struggling with the pandemic and a lack of resources to deal with it. The country of 11 million people received



Firefighters search for survivors inside a collapsed building, after Saturday's 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Les Cayes, Haiti, Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021.

Associated Press

its first batch of U.S.-donated coronavirus vaccines only last month via a United Nations program for low-income countries.

Medical workers from across the region were scrambling to help as hospitals in Les Cayes started running out of space to perform surgeries.

"Basically, they need everything," said Dr. Inobert Pierre, a pediatrician with the nonprofit Health Equity International, which oversees the St. Boniface Hospital, about two hours from Les Cayes. □



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LOCAL



Over 125,000 Fit2fly tests completed!

PALM BEACH — MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers just completed test number 125,000 since starting testing services at the beginning of the year. With six locations at various resorts on the island and two walk-in locations are at the Cove Mall and near the Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort at the Mill, it is one of the largest test centers on island.

MedCare's fit2fly test centers offer your best option for the post vacation COVID-19 test which has been a requirement since January 26th 2021 by the U.S. before returning home. All passengers going to the United States, including U.S. citizens, are required to have a negative (antigen or PCR) COVID-19 test result of a test taken maximum three days prior to boarding the flight, or documentation of recovery from COVID-19. MedCare's testing centers in and close to the hotels provide you with an easy and secure solution.

MedCare Clinic, a high-quality medical clinic that is specialized in urgent care for tourists and that has been appointed as the national COVID-19 clinic for tourists, and Laboratorio di Servizio, a full-service modern medical laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment, have partnered up to provide fast and reliable COVID-19 testing to all. Laboratorio di Servizio is ISO-15189:2012 accredited by the Dutch Council for Accreditation (M317).

NAAT Test

As Aruba resumes to receive more and more visitors each month, one thing has become very clear: testing is critical. Thus far MedCare Clinic has been offering high-volume laboratory testing with results in 24 hours or less. The newest service on the market is NAAT test, where you receive your results in minutes not hours.

Just steps away from you

The Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers are located at the Cove Mall and near the Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort at the Mill. These two locations at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation



accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome. It is recommended that the tests are done timely, as the negative test is only accepted if taken up to three days before boarding your flight. MedCare Fit2Fly Testing Center at the Cove Mall is opposite the Holiday Inn and is open every day for walk-ins from 8 AM through 6 PM. MedCare's other location is situated at The Courtyard Aruba Resort, is across the street from the RIU Hotel and is open every day from 8:00 AM until 2 PM.

At your hotel

For a selection of hotels/resorts in Aruba, MedCare has setup Testing Centers on site. The hotels/resorts at which we have a testing site are: Divi All Inclusive, Divi Dutch Village, Divi Golf, Divi Phoenix, Divi Tamarijn, Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort, Hyatt Regency, Renaissance, and the Ritz-Carlton Resort. Please contact your front desk for more information on our Testing Centers at these properties.

Costs and timing

Passengers must be tested with a viral test that could be either an Antigen Test or a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), such as the reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The price for the Antigen Test is only \$50, and the PCR Test is available, for \$125, The new NAAT will be \$150 (results in 30 minutes.) MedCare offers the easier and substantially cheaper Antigen Test that is acceptable for travel to the U.S. as per the CDC guidelines. Pre-travel testing is not covered by the Aruban visitor insurance. Please contact your insurance company to verify if testing costs are insured. Results are e-mailed to you within 24 hours of testing.

Private bookings

For your convenience, Medcare also offers private testing at your accommodation/hotel room for a one-time service fee of \$120. This fee covers testing up to 10 people (one appointment, at one location and a specific time). Additional persons will be charged \$10 per person. Regular testing fees applies. □



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AHATA:

At least 5 points of occupancy was lost as a result of CDC alert level

ORANJESTAD – The Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association has released the most recent hotel performance results, announcing that in July hotels reached 80% occupancy.

JULY 2021:

- Occupancy: The occupancy rate was 79.7%, which is 10% lower than

- in July of 2019.
- ADR: The average daily rate (for occupied rooms) was \$258.07, which is an increase of 4.3% compared to 2019.
- RevPAR: The revenue per available room achieved was \$205.74; a 6% decrease from 2019.

YEAR TO DATE:

In the first 7 months of the year, Aruba's hotels experienced an average occupancy of 50%. ADR was 12% lower than in 2019, and RevPAR reduced by 49%.

OCCUPANCY FORECAST:

75% of hotels confirmed that the CDC's new alert level for Aruba resulted in a

significant amount of cancellations, and an average 5 point loss of average occupancy.

TIMESHARE

AHATA's Timeshare properties experienced 87% occupancy in July.

AHATA member hotels: Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort, Barceló Aruba,

Boardwalk Boutique Hotel, Brickell Bay Beach Club, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Courtyard by Marriott, Divi & Tamarijn All-Inclusive, Eagle Aruba Resort, Holiday Inn Resort Aruba, Hyatt Regency Aruba, Hyatt Place Aruba Airport, Manchebo Beach Resort, Marriott Aruba & Stellaris Casino, Paradera Park, Radisson Blu Aruba, Renaissance Aruba Resort, The Ritz-Carlton Aruba, RIU Palace Aruba, RIU Palace Antillas, Talk of the Town Hotel.

AHATA member timeshares: Divi Aruba Phoenix, Divi Dutch Village, Divi Village Golf, La Cabana, Marriott Ocean Club, Marriott Surf Club. □

	OCC Forecast Reported on 8/7	OCC Forecast Reported on 8/14
August	77%	72%
September	68%	62%
October	72%	66%

Aruba to me

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. □



For today's newspaper we received a very nice picture of **Erik and Lori Rorvik** from Pennsylvania, USA. They wrote:
"Aruba to us is being blessed to be able to take our kids Ben & Lilly on a new adventure everyday!"

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Saba implements new status for Dutch Caribbean countries

THE BOTTOM —As per Monday, August 16, Saba is implementing new measures for travelers from Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten. Because of the increased number of COVID-19 cases in these Dutch Caribbean countries, all passengers from these islands will need to submit a negative PCR test taken maximum 72 hours prior to arrival on Saba, whether they are vaccinated or not.

Vaccinated persons traveling from these islands will not be required to quarantine. However, additional measures will be in place and they will have to undergo a test on day 5 after arrival. During these 5 days, these persons are encouraged to work from



home when possible, to avoid crowded areas and to wear a mask in public. Vaccinated youth will

need to stay home from school. Also they cannot take part in after-school activities and other organized events for 5 days and they must test on day 5.

All non-vaccinated persons must quarantine unless coming from a low-risk country. Both vaccinated and non-vaccinated persons traveling from regular very high-risk countries must go into quarantine for 5 days with pre-travel and on-island testing.

The decision to implement a compulsory PCR test and other measures for Curaçao, Aruba and St. Maarten was taken by Saba's Outbreak Management Team (OMT) during an extra meeting on Friday, August 12. During that meeting, the OMT discussed the current COVID-19 situation in St. Maarten and other islands in the region.

Special attention was given to the situation in the Dutch Caribbean countries, in particular St. Maarten, which is Saba's main hub. The number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise in St. Maarten. The Netherlands Institute for Public Health and the Environment RIVM has called the large increase in St. Maarten "worrisome."

The St. Maarten Medical Center is at its capacity mainly due to the delta variant and the low vaccination rate on this island. Considering the situation in the Dutch Caribbean countries, the OMT decided to create a special very high risk list with extra measures for Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten.

"Saba uniquely has a high vaccination rate of over 90 percent of the adult population and we acknowledge that the Dutch Caribbean countries have high COVID-19 numbers. We

also realize our dependency on vital activities such as connectivity and health care services," stated Island Governor Jonathan Johnson.

Johnson reminded the Saba people in a public statement that Saba was in a mitigation phase and no longer in containment. "We continue to encourage everyone as a community to take personal responsibility. Adhere well to masking and physical distancing regulations when off-island, even if vaccinated. Call the Saba Cares clinic should you develop symptoms in the two weeks after returning to Saba."

The new measures for the Dutch Caribbean countries also impacts short trips of less than 48 hours between Saba and St. Maarten. For short trips the same applies, except for the pre-travel test.

Because the person has only been on St. Maarten for less than 48 hours, there is no need to test before coming back to Saba. Vaccinated and unvaccinated persons returning from a short trip to St. Maarten will be tested on day 5, while non-vaccinated travelers will still need to be quarantined for these 5 days. Vaccinated travelers do not. They are encouraged to work from home as much as possible and practice responsible distancing by staying away from crowded areas.

On a positive note, Johnson stated that the start of the vaccination of youngsters between the ages of 12 and 17 has been going very well. Per last Friday, 64 youngsters (or 87 percent) had received their first dose of the Moderna vaccine. Vaccination of the youth will continue in the coming weeks. □

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Oystermen overcome pollution, pandemic to thrive in LI Sound

By PAT EATON-ROBB

Associated Press

NORWALK, Conn. (AP) —

Norm Bloom enjoys watching his 5-year-old grandson, Jack, out on one of their oyster boats dressed in his little waders, helping the crew as they pull in dredge cages full of the shellfish from the bottom of Norwalk Harbor.

"He'd be out there on deck all day every day if he could," Bloom said, during a recent harvesting trip with his son, Jimmy. "Or maybe it will be Jack's little sister Grace; she loves to get dirty. She might end up being the next oysterman in the family."

Whatever the case, Norm and Jimmy Bloom are confident that Copps Island Oysters, the family's 12,000 acre (4,856 hectare) oyster farming business that has been in Norwalk since the 1940s, will have a next generation.

That wasn't always clear. Connecticut's oyster industry is once again thriving, about 25 years after it almost disappeared, decimated by MSX, a parasitic disease that attacks oysters. Government and private efforts to clean up Long Island Sound, develop disease-resistant shellfish and find new markets have helped aquaculture become a \$30 million a year business in Connecticut, with oysters accounting for about half of that, state agriculture officials said.

"We're the Napa Valley of oysters," Gov. Ned Lamont said last month, while signing a bill that will give tax breaks to the industry, treating oystermen much like farmers on land.

There are aquaculture farms up and down the



Darwin Ceveda opens the bottom of a basket to unload hundreds of oysters into the hold of a shellfishing boat owned by Copps Island Oysters, Monday, Aug. 9, 2021, off Norwalk, Conn.

Associated Press

Connecticut shoreline, where ideal habitats exist, especially at the mouths of rivers where the fresh water spills into Long Island Sound. They are all helped by the state of Connecticut, which maintains more than 17,500 acres (7,081 hectares) of natural shellfish beds. Oystermen get permits to work those public beds, harvesting seed oysters to transplant to their own grounds. It's a system that helps keeps the industry going, even in bad years, agriculture officials said.

And there have been bad years, when parasites have killed oysters. Large storms like Sandy and Irene have overwhelmed sewage systems, polluting the harbors while churning up shellfish beds and burying them under silt, where the oysters suffocate and die. Over the past three decades, the state has been working with municipalities, in-

dustrial experts, local harbor management and shellfish commissions and environmental groups such as Harbor Watch to monitor and improve the water quality of the Sound, the rivers that flow into it and their estuaries.

Dick Harris, who founded Harbor Watch, monitors the water quality in seven harbors for Bloom's company. He said frequent testing and subsequent investigations have led to the closure of numerous illegal connections to storm drains, where companies had been dumping raw sewage into the water. That has meant cleaner water and far fewer days that oystermen have had to suspend operations because of high bacteria counts.

"When I first started this thing, Norwalk Harbor was a disaster," Harris said. "Low oxygen levels, multiple fish

kills every year because of the lack of oxygen, extremely high bacteria counts. Today' we're in a position where the counts in the outer reaches of the harbor on a normal day are zero."

But the industry continues to face threats, from old sewage infrastructure to climate change.

Tessa Getchis, an aquaculture specialist with Connecticut Sea Grant, a University of Connecticut-based program that supports the aquaculture in Long Island Sound, said the biggest concern she hears from oystermen is the increase in frequency of extreme storms and the associated closing of shellfish harvest areas because of runoff and contamination. "Even a moderate storm can wreak havoc on businesses," she said. "Not only can there be extended harvest area closures, but

in many cases, boats and equipment may need to be temporarily relocated to avoid impacts."

But modern farming techniques are helping with that, she said. The Blooms, for example, are building an oyster hatchery in New Haven, which will help make sure their farm always has a steady supply of seed shellfish.

Last year, when restaurants closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, the oyster market dried up. But some companies were able to adapt. At Indian River Shellfish, a small oyster company on the Madison-Clinton line, owners Mike Gilman and George Harris opened a fish stand so they could sell directly to customers, helping to make up lost revenue.

UConn's Sea Grant also helped keep oystermen afloat by hiring them to rehabilitate the state's natural beds. They would find oyster shells that had been buried in silt and mud and relocate them to areas where oyster larvae could attach to them and begin growing.

More than 1,800 acres of those beds were rehabilitated in 2020, officials said. Gilman is pushing the state to do more to help small operations such as his. This year's aquaculture legislation included funding for a shellfish council and money for marketing.

"I'd like to the state establish an oyster trail, like the wine trail they already have," Gilman said. "That way people can go up and down the coast from place to place, sampling all the different oysters we have. Then we'd really be the Napa Valley of oysters." □

Millions stolen from health fund spent at adult website

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — A former accounts manager for a nonprofit affiliated with the University of South Florida's medical school has pleaded guilty to embezzling almost \$13 million, spending most of it at an adult website with some of it coming back to him.

The Tampa Bay Times reports that Ralph Puglisi, 59, is facing up to 20 years in prison under the deal, which was recently filed in Tampa's federal court. Puglisi had worked for the University Medical Service Association, which provides staffing and support

for USF Health and other medical providers in the Tampa Bay area.

According to court documents, Puglisi spent almost \$12 million at an adult website that allows users to subscribe to channels belonging to specific women, who disrobe and

engage in sex acts on live video.

An investigation showed that Puglisi subscribed to a channel belonging to his stepson's fiancée and they split almost \$750,000 in profits, with Puglisi taking 60%.

"The investigative team

developed a working theory that Puglisi worked either with the principals of the adult content provider, or with the female profiles of the adult content provider in order to financially benefit from funds charged," prosecutors wrote. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 37 Soft drink

1 Constellation part

5 Book of maps

10 Plumbing piece

11 Peanut, informally

13 Resting on

14 Turn

15 Fast sailing ship

17 Top-secret govt. org.

18 Main courses

19 Friend of Bashful

20 "My country — of thee"

21 One-sided win

22 Girder metal

25 Doesn't own

26 Exist

27 Drunkard

28 Radio's Glass

29 Egyptian beetles

33 German article

34 Chewy candy

35 Magazine worker

38 Harsh

39 Easy gait

40 Sides in an eternal battle

41 Uses a needle

DOWN

1 Word separator

2 Giant of myth

3 Left, on a liner

4 Witty banter

5 Concurs

6 Handyman's collection

FAMISH TOGA
ATONCE ORAL
RATTAN TELL
ELTON REGIS
SLOT FEMALE
AMEN NET
KALAMAZOO
RAN RULE
ERASER PLAN
PAGES SHORE
ACRE SAY SOS
SHAM UNREST
TIME MESSES

Saturday's answer

7 Whole bunch

8 Leave high and dry

9 Begins

12 Gasps, say

16 Face concealer

21 Takes back

22 Trombone parts

23 Rants

24 Difficult to pin down

25 Lion sound

27 Frightens

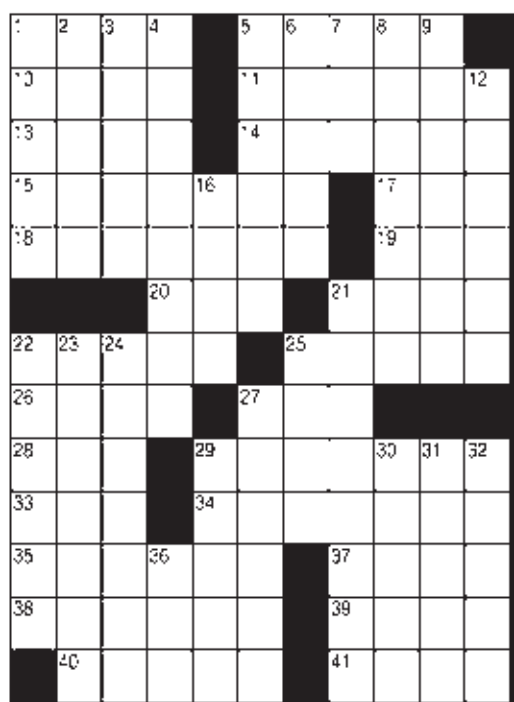
29 Get a goal

30 Love, to Luigi

31 Under

32 Bed boards

36 Cowboy nickname



8-16

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-16 CRYPTOQUOTE

I Z H S J L I X F D S

ODGYISJHBGBUBIA JLLIVU

UEIZ JYK QFSCBOI XFDSAIGQ

— JYCIGBLJ ZFYSEFX

Saturday's Cryptoquote: THIS WORLD WOULD BE A WHOLE LOT BETTER IF WE JUST MADE AN EFFORT TO BE LESS HORRIBLE TO ONE ANOTHER. — ELLIOT PAGE

Misinformation at public forums vexes local boards, big tech



Members of the County Council joining over video chat participate in the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of a council meeting at the St. Louis County Council Chambers in Clayton, Mo., Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021.

Associated Press

By DAVID KLEPPER and HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) —

There are plenty of places to turn for accurate information about COVID-19. Your physician. Local health departments. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

But not, perhaps, your local government's public comment session.

During a meeting of the St. Louis County Council earlier this month, opponents of a possible mask mandate made so many misleading comments about masks, vaccines and COVID-19 that YouTube removed the video for violating its policies against false claims about the virus.

"I hope no one is making any medical decisions based on what they hear at our public forums," said County Councilwoman Lisa Clancy, who supports mask wearing and said she believes most of her constituents do too. The video was restored, but Clancy's worries about the impact of that misinformation remain.

Videos of local government meetings have emerged as the latest vector of COVID-19 misinformation, broadcasting misleading claims about masks and vaccines to millions and creating new challenges for internet platforms trying to balance the potential harm against the need for government openness.

The latest video to go viral features a local physician who made several misleading claims about COVID-19 while addressing the Mount Vernon Community School Corporation in Fortville, Indiana, on Aug. 6. In his 6-minute remarks, Dr. Dan Stock tells the board that masks don't work, vaccines don't prevent infection, and state and federal health officials don't follow the science.

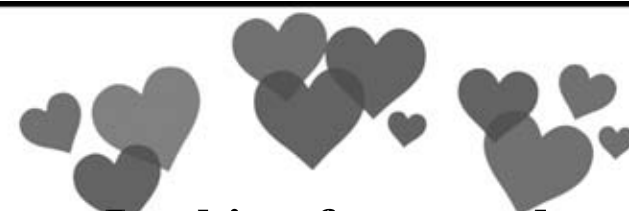
The video has amassed tens of millions of online views, and prompted the Indiana State Department of Health to push back. Stock did not return multiple messages seeking comment.

"Here comes a doctor in suspenders who goes in front of the school board

and basically says what some people are thinking: the masks are B.S., vaccines don't work and the CDC is lying — it can be very compelling to laypeople," said Dr. Zubin Damania, a California physician who received so many messages about the Indiana clip that he created his own video debunking Stock's claims. Damania hosts a popular online medical show under the name ZDoggMD. His video debunking Stock's comments has been viewed more than 400,000 times so far. He said that while there are legitimate questions about the effectiveness of mask requirements for children, Stock's broad criticism of masks and vaccines went too far. YouTube removed several similar videos of local government meetings in North Carolina, Missouri, Kansas and Washington state. In Bellingham, Washington, officials responded by temporarily suspending public comment sessions.

The false claims in those videos were made during the portion of the meeting devoted to public comment. Local officials have no control over what is said at these forums, and say that's part of the point.

The district, where a mask mandate remains in effect, responded by ending livestreaming of the public comment period. □



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Prominent fact-checker Snopes apologizes for plagiarism

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The co-founder and CEO of the fact-checking site Snopes.com has acknowledged plagiarizing from dozens of articles done by mainstream news outlets over several years, calling the appropriations "serious lapses in judgment."

From 2015 to 2019 — and possibly even earlier — David Mikkelsen included material lifted from the Los Angeles Times, The Guardian and others to scoop up web traffic, according to BuzzFeed News, which broke the story Friday.

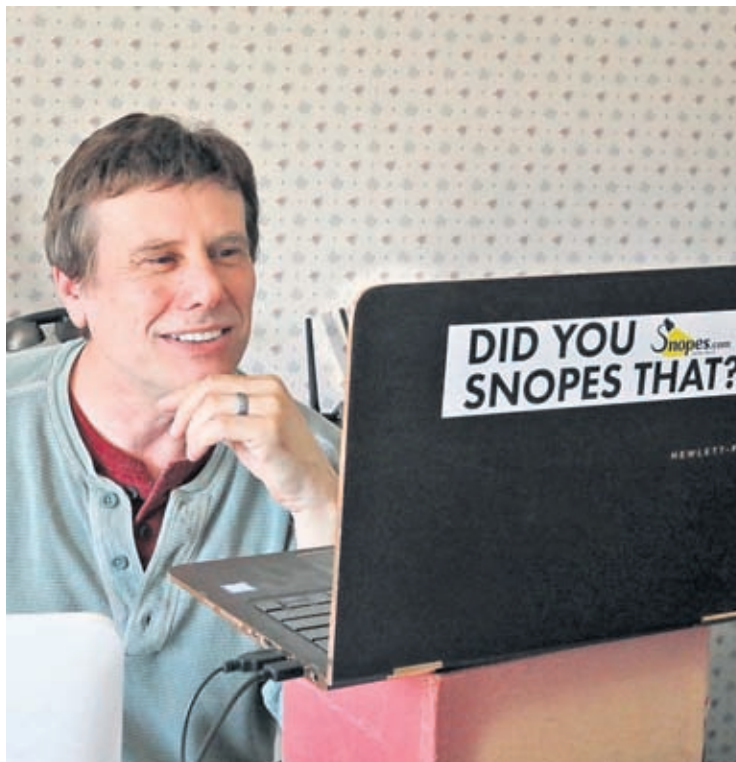
Mikkelsen used his own name, a generic Snopes byline and a pseudonym when he lifted material, including single sentences and whole paragraphs on such subjects as same-sex marriage and the death of David Bowie, without citing the sources, BuzzFeed and Snopes said.

He has been suspended from editorial production pending the conclusion of an internal review but remains CEO and a 50% shareholder in the company, according to a statement from Snopes' senior leadership.

"Let us be clear: Plagiarism undermines our mission and values, full stop. It has no place in any context within this organization," the statement said.

In a separate statement, eight current Snopes writers also condemned Mikkelsen's actions, while former staffers indicated to BuzzFeed that he routinely encouraged the practice as a way to make Snopes appear faster than it was. Mikkelsen did not immediately return an Associated Press email seeking comment Saturday. He told BuzzFeed his behavior was due to a lack of formal journalism experience.

"I didn't come from a journalism background," he said. "I wasn't used to doing news aggregation. A number of times I crossed the line to where it was copyright infringement. I own that."



This Sept. 25, 2018 file photo shows David Mikkelsen, founder of Snopes, the site that tracks fakery on the web, in his home office in Tacoma, Wash.

Associated Press

Created in 1994 under a different name by Mikkelsen and his then-wife, Barbara Hamel, Snopes has earned two Webby Awards and served as one of Facebook's fact-checking partners between December 2016 and February 2019, BuzzFeed News said. In recent years, the site has been the focus of a contentious ownership battle between Mikkelsen and the company that bought Hamel's shares.

BuzzFeed News flagged stories from a range of outlets that also include The

New York Times, CNN, NBC News and the BBC. Six were originally published under the Mikkelsen pseudonym Jeff Zarronandia, three under Mikkelsen's name and the rest as "Snopes staff." Snopes said it has identified 140 stories with possible problems, including the 54 found to include appropriated material.

Snopes also cited AP material that wasn't properly attributed.

It did not specify which stories.

Senior management said in the statement that Snopes

was removing unattributed content while leaving up individual pages. An editor's note will be used to outline the issues and link to original sources.

"We are in the process of archiving and retracting all of the offending stories, along with disabling any monetization features on those posts," the statement said. "We will attempt to contact each news outlet whose reporting we appropriated to issue an apology." □

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Allmendinger gets 1st Indy win in crash-marred Brickyard 200

By **MICHAEL MAROT**

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — AJ

Allmendinger took advantage of two frightening multi-car crashes, the leader getting spun out and a penalty — all in the final five laps — to win the Brickyard 200 on Sunday at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Making only his second NASCAR Cup start of the season, the 39-year-old Allmendinger raced to his second career Cup victory and gave Kaulig Racing its first win in only the organization's seventh series start. But the 0.929-second victory over Ryan Blaney in the first Cup race on the 14-turn, 2.439-mile road course was marred by two huge pileups that brought out red flags.

The first came with five laps to go, starting when pole-winning driver William Byron went over the curbing in the fifth turn and was sent off the course. Eight more drivers quickly followed him, immediately bringing out a yellow and eventually a red flag. "It was so weird, I've never had that experience before," Byron said, saying he first noticed the



AJ Allmendinger celebrates after winning the NASCAR Series auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

problem when Kyle Larson went through the section just ahead of him. "I nailed something and tore it up." Track workers, who had been tending to the chicane throughout the race, eventually removed it and towed it away as fans cheered. Even Indianapolis Motor Speedway President Doug Boles walked onto the track in a suit and tie, grabbed a broom and

helped clean the area. When the engines restarted, nobody was sure what to expect or how to navigate the altered turn. A few moments later, seven more cars crashed in the same spot and again the race was halted. NASCAR officials did not immediately report any significant injuries. Organizers made one modification to the track

overnight — removing a "turtle" in the sixth turn that had caused some trouble during Saturday's double-header. But it was the fifth turn that became problematic Sunday. Some wondered whether fatigue from three days of practice, qualifying and racing on the same course could have led to the deterioration of the curbing. Drivers refused to specu-

late.

"I don't believe in luck but I feel like that was bad luck," Joey Logano said. "Wrong place, wrong time. I went around as a passenger, knowing what was going to happen."

It wasn't just the crashes. Denny Hamlin had the lead with two laps to go and appeared headed toward victory when Chase Briscoe's second-place car went skittering through the grass between the first two turns. The two cars raced side-by-side briefly before Hamlin pulled slightly ahead heading into the 10th turn.

That's where Briscoe, who said he was unaware he had been penalized, spun out Hamlin.

"Just a lack of awareness," Hamlin said. "I just wanted him to race me for a lap. I don't think he did it maliciously. He's not that kind of person. This just turned everything upside down."

Even before the crashes, though, this race looked more like short-track event. At one point, Brad Keselowski hit a concrete wall and pitted with the back part of his car dragging. □

Federer needs 3rd surgery; has 'glimmer of hope' to return



In this July 7, 2021, file photo, Switzerland's Roger Federer plays a return to Poland's Hubert Hurkacz during the men's singles quarterfinals match on the ninth day of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

Roger Federer is going to miss the U.S. Open and be sidelined for months because he needs a third operation on his right knee, a procedure he said will leave him with "a glimmer

of hope" that he can return to competition.

Federer announced the news Sunday via a video message on Instagram.

"I've been doing a lot of checks with the doctors, as well, on my knee, get-

ting all the information as I hurt myself further during the grass-court season and Wimbledon," Federer said. "Unfortunately they told me for the medium- to long-term, to feel better, I will need surgery, so I decided to do it."

I will be on crutches for many weeks and then also out of the game for many months."

The 40-year-old Federer, who has 20 Grand Slam singles titles to share the men's record with Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic, acknowledged there was a chance his playing career could be over, but he said he would rehab the knee with the goal of making another comeback.

"I want to be healthy. I want to be running around later, as well, again, and I want to give myself a glimmer of hope, also, to return to the

tour in some shape or form," Federer said. "I am realistic, don't get me wrong. I know how difficult it is at this age right now to do another surgery and try it."

Federer missed more than a year of action after first having his knee repaired shortly after the 2020 Australian Open in February of that year. He had a follow-up procedure that June.

He returned to Grand Slam action at the French Open in late May and then pulled out of the tournament after three victories. His most recent match was a loss at the Wimbledon quarterfinals last month, and he cited the knee injury in withdrawing from the Tokyo Olympics.

The season's last Grand Slam tournament, the U.S. Open, starts Aug. 30 in New York. Nadal is dealing with a foot injury, and Djokovic

pulled out of tune-up tournaments, saying he needed to rest and recuperate following the Olympics, where he failed to win a medal.

Federer won 16 of his Grand Slam titles between 2003 and 2010 but remained at or near the top of the sport into his late 30s. He won the Australian Open and Wimbledon during a resurgent 2017 and defended his title at Melbourne Park in 2018, his most recent Grand Slam championship. In 2019 he lost a five-set classic to Djokovic in the Wimbledon final.

Federer's spot in the U.S. Open main draw will go to Tallon Griekspoor of the Netherlands, the U.S. Tennis Association said. American Mackie McDonald would be the next man to move into the field if there is another withdrawal. □

Kevin Kisner wins 6-man playoff at Wyndham Championship

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Kevin Kisner finally broke his playoff drought to win the Wyndham Championship. He hopes the victory will help him achieve another milestone — representing the United States in the Ryder Cup.

Kisner stuck his approach to 3 feet on the second extra hole and made the putt to win a record-tying six-man playoff on Sunday.

The 37-year-old Kisner, an excellent putter who now has four PGA Tour wins, has never qualified or been selected to represent the U.S. in the biennial matches against Europe. American captain Steve Stricker will make six picks after the Tour Championship, and Kisner believes he's at least put himself in the mix.

"Who knows, man?" Kisner said. "I've never been picked before, so I'm not going to go out there and jump on a limb and say that I'm going to get picked this year."

"I love Stricker, he's a great friend and great guy. He'll do what's best for the team and the country."

And that could mean Kisner, who's 23rd in the U.S. Ryder Cup points standings, yet has shaken off an uninspired year with improved play at the right time.

Kisner has shot in the 60s in 12 of his last 20 rounds. His 66 on Sunday at Sedgefield included birdies on the 16th and 17th holes to reach 15 under and the playoff.

In the playoff, he bested Adam Scott, Roger Sloan, Kevin Na, Si Woo Kim and Branden Grace after all had made pars on the first additional hole.

"To be standing here is pretty sweet," said Kisner, who had been 0-5 in playoffs.

With Scott looking at a 4-footer for birdie on the first extra hole, Kisner thought he would have to hole a pitch from short of the 18th green just to stay in the playoff, and he nearly did it. Kisner grimaced as his ball settled just right of the cup.

But Scott's short putt missed badly and all six players went back to the 18th tee. This time, only Kisner gave

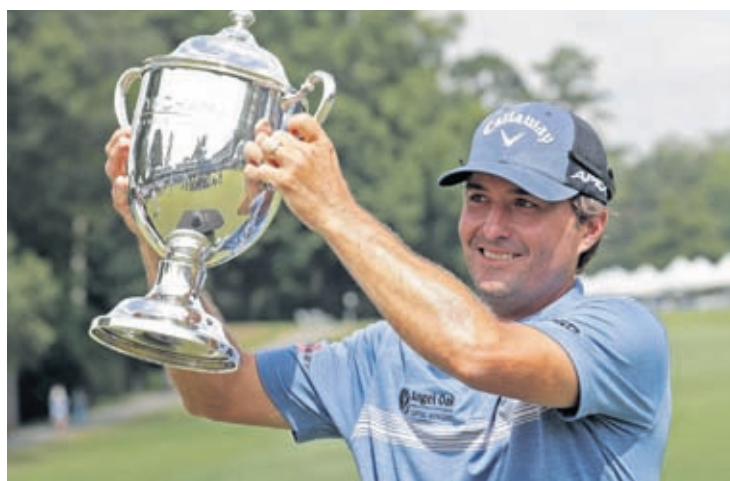
himself a close look at birdie on the 505-yard closing hole.

Kim shot 64 in the final round. Scott had a 65 while Grace, Na and Sloan each closed with 66.

It was the third six-man playoff on the PGA Tour and the first since Robert Allenby won at Riviera in 2001.

It didn't look like a playoff would be necessary after Russell Henley, who led after the first three rounds, recovered from a slow start to reach 17-under after a birdie on the 10th hole. But Henley bogeyed three of the next four and came to the 72nd hole needing par to stay at 15 under.

But Henley missed a 6-footer to go 0-for-3 this season with the 54-hole lead.



Kevin Kisner hoists the trophy after he sunk a birdie putt on the second playoff hole to win the Wyndham Championship golf tournament at Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro, N.C., Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021.

Associated Press

He was in front after three rounds at Las Vegas last October and at the U.S. Open in June.

"I knew I had to shoot under par today, so just disap-

pointed," Henley after his 1-over 71. "It stings pretty bad."

There was drama through the final round of the tour's last regular-season event

as players outside the post-season sought to get in.

It looked like former FedEx Cup champion Justin Rose, who started the week 138th, had done enough to make the 125-man field for The Northern Trust. But the Englishman missed a 5-footer for par on the final hole that dropped him to 126th — first outside the playoff field.

"Obviously it was in my hands up 18," Rose said. "I didn't do a very good job of that."

Rose's loss was Chesson Hadley's gain. The veteran who finished second at the Palmetto Championship at Congaree in June made a hole-in one on the par-3 16th — complete with an awkward, leg-kicking celebration — and shot 62. □

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seasoned and grilled to perfection. With choices of extra sides of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wines from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu. Vegetarians will enjoy the roasted vegetable pasta tossed in a light butter sauce and topped with freshly shaved parmesan cheese. As desserts the choices are wild. Homemade key lime pie, co-



conut flan served with caramel sauce and whipped cream or a NY cheese cake, chocolate brownie with chocolate sauce vanilla ice cream and whipped cream or a delicious oven fresh carrot cake served with orange sauce and candied pecans. Whether it is the best seafood, steaks, chicken, pasta, or your continental favorites the reasonably priced menu offers a modern twist and features generous portions and Chef's specials.

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Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. On Monday & Saturday, Angela Flores, will delight you with her violin. Tuesday, Jean Paul, Saxophonist, will get you moving. On Wednesday's and Sunday's singer Paula Ridderstap will make you sing along to all her tunes. Thursday's and Friday's

guitarist Ricky Thomas will make you find your groove. And also on Sunday's Tico Kock will make you dance away to the sounds of his steel drum. Whether you're in a romantic mood or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you. In addition, the best happy hour in Aruba happens right here. Water's Edge Restaurant offers three Happy Hours daily (12 noon – 1 pm, 4 pm – 6 pm, with complimentary hors d'oeuvres served by circulating staff, and again from 9 pm – 10 pm) with all premium brands specially priced.

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